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NEWSLETTER VOL. 15



CITIZEN BAND OF POTAWATOMI INDIANS

ROUTE 5, BOX 151 — SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA 74801

FEBRUARY, 1977

The time is nearing for all Citizen Band of Potawatomi Indians to prepare for the Hearing of Public Record, which we have been making reference to for some time now. The importance of your participation in this event and your knowledge of the proposed per capita plan cannot be stressed enough!

This Hearing of Public Record will be conducted for the explicit purpose of hearing and recording testimony concerning the proposed per capita plan for the use and distribution of the tribe's share of judgment funds. The Citizen Band of Potawatomi Tribe's share of judgment funds was awarded to the Potawatomi Nation by the Indian Claims Commission in Dockets 15-K, 29-J, 217, 15-M, 29-K, and 146. This notice is given pursuant to the Act of October 19, 1973, (Public Law 93-134; 84 Stat. 466, 467, 468) and Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60.

The hearing is scheduled to be held in the Potawatomi Cultural Heritage Center, located on old State Highway 18, approximately two (2) miles south of Shawnee, Oklahoma, on February 26, 1977, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The Hearing Officer is Mr. Sam Taylor, Attorney, Regional Solicitor's Office, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

All tribal members are invited to attend; but, in lieu of actual attendance, written comments, suggestions or objections regarding any proposed plan which the tribe plans to recommend, may be submitted to the Area Director, Anadarko Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Box 368, Anadarko, Oklahoma, 73005. We are told that written comments should be submitted by February 26, 1977, but will be accepted and considered if postmarked by March 8, 1977.

The proposed per capita plan was outlined in the January, 1977 newsletter. The program aspects of the plan, as you recall, consisted of placing 20% of the total awards, together with any investment income accrued over \$36,000.00 in a perpetual trust to earn the highest degree of interest available. Gerald Peltier relates the following information, relative to the program aspects of the plan:

At the Council meeting on April 13, 1976, the Council voted to use the programmed portion of the awarded money to purchase prosthetics appliances for tribal members fifty five years of age and older. However, when that proposal was presented to the BIA, they felt that it would be considered discriminatory by the Central Office of BIA and the Congressional committees, since it applied only to members in one age group. Younger tribal members have their needs also, and were completely eliminated from sharing the benefits of this program. The Washington Office of the BIA advised us to write a proposal which included at least two programs and stated that both the BIA and the Congressional Committees were more apt to pass on two programs from which the entire tribe could benefit than one in which only one segment of the tribe derived benefits. They felt that the combination of programs presented was a good one. Any qualified tribal member can benefit from the scholarship system and any members who need artificial limbs, a wheel chair or other assistance which will help them lead better or more useful lives are eligible for assistance under this program. The Central Office of the BIA felt that this combination of programs would pass the Congressional Committees with little or no delay.

Citizen Band of Potawatomi
Indians of Oklahoma

ROUTE 5 — Box 151
SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA 74801

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We will be coming out soon with a newsletter reporting on all the new and on-going tribal programs and activities. This newsletter is explicitly for the purpose of the Hearing of Public Record, though there are a few items which need your attention now.


Sheila Hall, who represents us on the Business Committee and the Okla. City Area Health Advisory Board, wants to relate some information to all our tribal members who reside in or near Oklahoma City. Councilman Hall is tentatively planning a pot luck supper on February 25 in an effort for tribal members in the Oklahoma City area to have an opportunity to meet fellow Oklahoma City area tribal members. Those tribal members who live in or near Oklahoma County are requested to contact her at 7037 South Villa, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (or call 682-1596) for information. Sheila says, "Who knows, at this supper you might meet your next door neighbor and find that he is a long lost cousin!"

Of immediate interest to many of you will be the announcement of the next Potawatomi Historical Committee meeting planned for Monday, February 28. The meeting will take place at the Potawatomi Cultural Heritage Center, two (2) miles south of Shawnee at 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We proudly claim a total of 15 present at the last Historical meeting, with promise of a larger number coming next month. We are "making history" for the Potawatomi Nation, and you certainly do not want to be left out!

The Potawatomi Inter Tribal Pow Wow Club will hold a Business meeting, Thursday, February 17, 1977. The meeting will be held in the Council room of the Potawatomi Cultural Heritage Center and Tribal Office at 7:00 p.m. All Potawatomi and other interested Indians are invited to attend. The election of officers will be the main point of business. For additional information you may call the tribal office, 275-3125.

In answer to all your questions regarding whether or not we still have cookbooks and history books for sale, the answer is yes. In fact, we have an abundance of both, though we are selling them all the time. The history books cost \$5.50 mailed out, and the cookbooks are priced at \$2.50.

In closing, we hope to see every one of you on February 26 at the Record of Public Hearing. If all goes well at the hearing, your payments are one giant step closer to arrival at your homes. Hopefully, we will not be contending with adverse weather conditions at the end of February so have a safe and pleasant trip.



Jan Shanklin
Program Planner